

Overview

The purpose of this assignment is to have you look at history and research in a whole new light. You will be writing a descriptive paper of a historical event from the perspective of a character who has taken some part in the event. This description must be written in first person, and it should be approached from the perspective of the character recalling the incident. You will gain an extensive knowledge of your topic and utilize research and MLA formatting to support your storytelling.

Your character **cannot** be a major player in the event. For example, if your topic is the liberation of Auschwitz, you could write your paper from the perspective of a survivor, a German soldier, an American soldier, or a German citizen. You cannot write it from the perspective of Hitler, any leader of the concentration camps, or a well-known participant of this happening, *i.e.* Anne Frank.

The Process

After selecting a topic, you will begin the research process by locating a number of sources. We will discuss the evaluation of sources for reliability and relevance, eliminating those that are biased or lacking significance to your topic. You will also aim to gather information from a wide variety of sources. The note-taking phase will consist of your compiling information onto notecards, a step that will help you organize and reference your information easily. Developing a narrator is another critical step in the process, and you'll work with a partner to brainstorm possible narrative approaches, which you'll then narrow and craft into a fully developed character who provides the lens for your account of the event. Throughout the process you'll provide progress reports and summaries to let me know how you're doing; we'll also conference to work together to refine and guide your thinking.

The Paper

You will be compiling your notes and then using them to help you write your creative account of the event. Historical facts must be woven into your story to give it credibility, as you want your reader to believe that your character had a personal connection to what happened.

While crafting your story, you will keep a clear narrative stance, constantly asking yourself the following of your character: What is the character's background that lead up to the event? How did this event impact his/her life? What are the important details, and why are they important to this character? How might this character recount the events differently than another bystander? These are just a few of the questions you will strive to answer in creating your story. Ultimately, you want to keep in mind that this is a work of fiction; do not try to turn it into a research paper filled with hollow facts.

Required Elements

- Historical Fiction; a creative yet fact-based first-person account of an historical event.
- Incorporation of at least 35 historical facts
- Six Sources, at least two of these being a print source

- Notecards: 6 source cards and 40 note cards
- Final length between 7-15 pages
- Numerous process pieces to be collected along the way; see process/rubric sheet
- Correct MLA citation and formatting (Works Cited; page layout; attribution of research)

The Timeline

Please utilize the following timeline to pace yourself. This project is carried out concurrently with two other units, so organization and pacing are critical. (The following dates are subject to change, of course.)

Date	Activity and Focus	Materials Due
1/28	Introduction to project	Topic Proposal
1/30	Library and Research Overview	Topic Selection
2/3	Process/Discovery research	Discovery Research
2/5	Evaluating Sources/Search Terms/Note Taking	1 source, 7 notecards
2/9	MLA formatting/ Works Cited List	2 sources, 15 notecards
2/11	Creating a narrator	4 sources, 20 notecards
2/13	Storytelling	Narrator Worksheet 5 sources, 30 notecards
2/18	Using Scenes to tell a story/ Creating effective dialogue	Storyline. Final Notes check (6 sources, 40 notecards)
2/20	Conflict and tension	Scene #1
2/24	Drafting	Scene #2
3/2	Editing	Draft #1
3/6	Cover Letter	Draft #2
3/12	Hooray!	Final Draft

